

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: LWIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES—
FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005

The minutes and revised agenda from the Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) Advisory Committee conference call on Friday, May 20, 2005, are attached for your review and information. Please ensure that the minutes are provided to the appropriate staff.

If you have any questions regarding the minutes, please contact Jim Scholl, at (916) 657-4610.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Chief
Workforce Investment Division

Attachments

LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Friday, May 20, 2005

Agenda

10 a.m.	Welcome/Agenda Building/Hot Topics	Bob Hermsmeier, Workforce Investment Division (WID)
	California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) Update	David Militzer, CWIB
	Nursing Education Workforce Initiative Update	Barbara Whitney, Community Colleges
	Integration Survey	Steve Saxton, WID
	Rapid Response Funding Timeline	Steve Saxton, WID
	Unemployment Insurance Print Screen Workgroup	Liz Clingman, WID
	Waivers on Performance/Common Measures	Liz Clingman, WID
	Performance Negotiation	Liz Clingman, WID
	Next Tentative Scheduled Call—June 17, 2005	

LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Friday, May 20, 2005

Welcome/Agenda Building/Hot Topics—Bob Hermsmeier, Workforce Investment Division (WID)

- Governor's Committee Comprehensive Strategy—The Governor's Committee is charged with developing recommendations for a comprehensive strategy to increase the number of people with disabilities in the employment field. For your review, the draft Comprehensive Strategy is located on the One-Stop Web site at www.edd.ca.gov/one-stop/disabilities.htm. The staff to the Governor's Committee will contact the Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) for their perspective on the comprehensive strategy.
- Allocations—On May 9, 2005, Information Bulletin [WIAB04-100](#), *Possible Changes to WIA Allocations*, indicated there was a possible problem with the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) information. California's allocations might be affected. The WID then received subsequent information from BLS on May 13. Information Bulletin [WIAB04-101](#), *BLS Error does not Affect WIA Allocations*, dated May 13, 2005, indicates the LAUS information that was corrupt was not used in any way for the allocations. California's State and substate allocations are correct.
- Agriculture and Public Data Concerns Related to Allocations—There are several LWIAs that have been disadvantaged by the fact that BLS no longer tracks statistics on agriculture or public layoff data and these factor into the allocations in past years. The Workforce Development Branch (WDB) is reviewing five years of labor market information to develop a model which best displays the overall impact over the course of time. Because WID was alerted that several LWIAs were asking for possible WIA 25 percent funding to assist in making up the funding, it was decided to group the requests together. A survey tool will go out allowing those local areas that are impacted to request additional assistance funding out of the 25 percent account. The WDB will forward these funding requests for consideration by the Directorate and the Labor Workforce Development Agency (LWDA).
- EMILE—Liz Clingman: A Department of Labor (DOL) contractor has been asked to do a feasibility study of ETA Management Information and Longitudinal Evaluation (EMILE) implementation. They are talking to three states, California, New York, and Tennessee. The Workforce Development Branch (WDB) has held two conference calls with the contractor to discuss general issues from the State level. The contractor is coming to Sacramento in June. The contractor has a very aggressive timeline to complete their study for DOL by December. The contractor would like to

make site visits to two local areas sometime in July. The WID will partner with the California Workforce Association (CWA) in choosing these two local sites.

- **Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA)**—Steve Saxton: At the last meeting, Deborah Bronow of the UI Branch, addressed the Advisory Committee regarding a project that had been approved by the Department of Labor (DOL) for \$2 million to schedule 120,000 interviews of UI recipients to determine what could be done to identify any barriers to their returning to work. The UI Branch has partnered with the Employment Development Department's (EDD) Information Technology Branch, Job Service Branch (JSB), and WDB and has determined 12 to 13 potential sites within the three metropolitan areas of San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles to conduct the interviews. By the end of May, UI will contact the sites, and WDB and JSB will contact the One-Stop partners to discuss what the effects of those interviews will have on those proposed sites. These interviews will conclude by December 31, 2005.
- **Base Closures**—Jose Luis Marquez: The release of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list was published on May 13, with the cuts being less than expected. California, overall, didn't do too badly. California is expected to lose roughly 2,000 jobs. Regardless of what transition funding the Department of Defense offers, there may still be need for additional funding to serve persons dislocated as a result of these layoffs. The WID, in support of affected LWIAs, will consider Additional Assistance requests to serve those individuals laid off as a result of these base realignments or closures.
- **Expenditure Letters**—Letters are going out next week to each local area administrator regarding year-end expenditures for Program Year (PY) 2004-05. The local areas must meet the federal requirement of expenditure and obligations at 80 percent for the total funding as well as 30 percent funding for out-of-school youth before the end of the year.
- **Local Plan Modification Process**—This was discussed in previous Advisory calls about keeping the process simple and doing a minor modification of the existing local plans. That notification went out the end of April and the local areas are in the midst of putting their local plan modifications together and submitting them to EDD.

California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) Update—David Militzer, CWIB

The State Board met on May 12 in Sacramento. The major agenda item was to act on the draft annual WIA Two Year Strategic Plan. The CWIB wants to acknowledge EDD and the local partners, as well as other State partners, for their participation in putting together the draft Plan. The EDD staff were particularly responsive in generating draft sections with a very short, seven-week turnaround to get the draft Plan on the CWIB Web site.

An addition to the Plan made at the Board meeting was to include recognizing high road partnerships between labor and business as a workforce development strategy.

As soon as the draft Two Year Plan is approved by the Governor's office, the final version will be posted to replace the draft that is now on the Board's Web site. The intent was to concentrate on a policy role for the State Board in terms of drafting the Plan and making sure the focus was on high-level policy issues in a way that was coordinated with the Governor's priorities to the degree that the Governor has made statements and has issued positions regarding jobs and support for workforce and career development.

The following priorities summarize the major issues and strategies by themes and were presented at the State Board meeting:

Priority 1: Understanding and Meeting the Workforce Needs of Business and Industry in Order to Prepare Workers for 21st Century Jobs.

- Major Themes of Priority 1:
 1. Supporting and improving local business services.
 2. Identifying and incorporating high-wage, high-growth jobs into career-oriented service strategies.
 3. Maximizing best practices information.
 4. Supporting California's small businesses.

Priority 2: Targeting Limited Resources to Areas Where They Can Have the Greatest Economic Impact.

- Major Themes of Priority 2:
 1. Investing resources in vital industries with statewide labor shortages.
 2. Continuing to improve State and local economic and labor market data.
 3. Targeting Resources to Programs, Services, Industries, Business, and Areas of the State that will have the Most Economic Impact.
 4. Advancing Workers with Barriers to Employment.

Priority 3: Collaborating to improve California's educational system at all levels.

- Major Themes of Priority 3:
 1. Improving career technical and vocational education.
 2. Improving WIA Youth services, focusing on those youth most in need.
 3. Addressing literacy needs.
 4. Addressing apprenticeship programs.
 5. Addressing life-long learning.

Priority 4: Ensuring the Accountability of Public and Private Workforce Investments.

- Major Themes of Priority 4:
 1. Improving State and local coordination between partner agencies and programs.

2. Identifying and achieving administrative efficiencies and better service integration in California's workforce system.
3. Optimizing training and the availability of training funds.
4. Optimizing state- and local-level capacity building and technical assistance.
5. Identifying and requesting WIA waivers.
6. Maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of the workforce investment system.

Joseph Werner asked for clarification on Priority Four and if there were any plans to reduce the number of LWIAs. David Militzer indicated the State Plan did not indicate anything specific in this area. He added that although the California Performance Review had initially recommended such a course of action, the initial recommendation was subsequently modified. There is continued interest in seeing improved efficiencies and effectiveness in the operation of workforce development in California. The LWDA Secretary, Victoria Bradshaw, has publicly stated that we should be asking the question "is there a right number of LWIAs, and if there is, what is it?" Ray Worden commented that DOL would likely have a problem if we did not address this question in our State Plan.

The May 12 meeting also resulted in the adoption of revised by-laws of the State Board and were completed consistent with the broad agreement that the CWIB needs to be working on a higher policy level than it has in the past and more closely with other aspects of administration direction and priorities. The by-laws call for a different committee structure at the Board level with just one standing committee: the administrative committee. The by-laws stipulate that State Board special committees may be established on an annual basis.

The Governor recently appointed Brian McMahon as CWIB's new Executive Director. He has most recently worked as a vice-president of Strategic Partnerships, a Washington D.C. consulting firm. Mr. McMahon served for 11 years as president of the California Manufacturers & Technology Association's Service Corporation. He also worked in State government for the former Trade and Commerce Agency, and has previously served on the Statewide Certification Development Corporation Board. He will begin his tenure on June 1.

Paul Gussman will be resuming deputy director responsibilities as of June 1.

The next State Board is tentatively scheduled for July 28 in Sacramento, with the possibility of becoming a two-day meeting.

Nurse Education Workforce Initiative Update—Barbara Whitney, Community Colleges

Barbara Whitney gave a presentation regarding the community colleges nursing programs and the Governor's Nurse Education Initiative. The community colleges have 69 associate degree registered nurse programs. There are about 5400 students enrolled each year and that does include expansion efforts. The nurse program graduates about 4500 students each year. The Governor announced the Nurse Education Initiative on April 13, which is designed to address the shortage of nurses in

California. The announcement included a significant partnership between the Governor, the California LWDA, EDD, and the Chancellor's Office in the Community Colleges.

The Governor has designated \$30 million of the 15 percent Discretionary funds from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to be made available to the community colleges through a competitive grant process for a period over the next five years. The purpose of the funds is to maximize the success of students in our education system. There are some problems with attrition. It's also designed to help us increase the number of faculty who provide nursing education. The State is beginning to experience a shortage of faculty and specialty nursing areas. Also, the funding includes a significant public/private partnership component and a significant matching requirement. The goal is to select projects through a competitive process for projects to use these funds in an innovative way. There is \$6 million for the grantees for each year for five years. The matching funds required are \$2 for every \$1 of WIA dollars awarded.

Projects will be based on three particular models. (1) The Student Success model awardee will improve existing students' success within the nursing program. Some of the programs have attrition rates of 25 percent or greater and so we would hope to provide student support services to increase program completion. (2) The Significant Expansion model awardee would have to expand their program by at least 80 students. This will require them to build infrastructure and to have significant matching partnerships formed with hospitals in order to meet this requirement. We would hope they would be able to increase their infrastructure such as building new classrooms or skills labs and to provide student success activities as well as a component for recruiting faculty. (3) The Expanding Existing Program model awardee would expand their enrollment by at least 40 students and provide supportive services.

The Chancellor's Office released the Request For Applications on April 28. A video conference was held on May 9. A teleconference is scheduled for May 31. The colleges have been asked to submit a letter of intent to apply by June 10. The deadline for submitting the applications is July 26. The award announcement will occur on August 10, and after that the colleges will have 10 working days to appeal the reading process. The Governor is scheduled to announce the awardees sometime during September. The projects are scheduled to start on October 1.

Integration Survey—Steve Saxton, WID

Dennis Petrie of WDB, and Patty Castro from Alameda County, participated on a DOL National Dislocated Worker Workgroup. That workgroup has an Integration Subcommittee that is attempting to gather information about the integration of all services related to dislocated workers. The DOL asked workgroup members to volunteer to respond to a pilot integration survey. Patty and Dennis thought it would be a good idea if California had some voice in the survey. They discussed it with Virginia Hamilton of CWA and together they came up with 10 local areas that would be representative of the State. The responses received this week have ranged quite widely. Some areas indicate little integration is occurring and there are a great deal of barriers to integration. There are other areas where integration has apparently worked quite well, where partners are working together to provide integrated services to dislocated workers. This survey was not intended as a scorecard, but just a way to

gather information regarding what is working and what is not, what the barriers are, and what needs to be done to remove those barriers. The WDB will forward the responses along with a State-completed response, to the Dislocated Worker Workgroup. It is hoped the workgroup can use the responses to produce a better final survey document to use with a much broader audience, and to begin working on tools to support integration.

Rapid Response Funding Timeline—Steve Saxton, WID

The Rapid Response PY 2005-06 formula allocations should be released by June 15, which includes the base-line and the dislocation-based portions. The policy that was passed last year divided the Rapid Response into a baseline amount and a dislocation activity-based amount and then set aside funds for competitive applications. The application directive for the competitive portion of the Rapid Response funding is expected to be released on June 15 as well.

UI Print Screen Workgroup—Liz Clingman, WID

This workgroup is part of the UI Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment. In April there was guidance issued by both UI and Job Service (JS) Branches that basically stopped the availability of any UI information in the One-Stop system between the local areas and EDD. There is concern on EDD's part about the confidentiality of that information and whether EDD was operating in compliance with the law when the information was released. The other issue was the shortage of resources, both on the UI side and the JS side. When that guidance was announced there was a great deal of action from the local areas. In working with CWA, an EDD and local area workgroup was established with representation from San Bernardino County and North Central Consortium participating. The workgroup has moved forward with several conference calls where we've identified the data elements the locals felt were most critical to their business operations. The EDD representatives on the workgroup have looked at options that might be available to put into place to assist the locals in having that data. The CWA sent out a survey that asked about putting consent authorization in place, and would it present a problem for the local areas. With half the local areas responding, the general consensus was that it would not present a problem. The mutually agreed upon solution will involve some type of authorization from the clients. We are looking at options for an automated solution that will make that data fairly quickly available given that the consent authorization is in place. The workgroup was given a 30-day timeline to try to provide a solution.

Waivers on Performance/Common Measures—Liz Clingman, WID

The State understands that the 17-measure performance system is pretty cumbersome to manage for the LWIAs. Systems have been put in place to make it more manageable but one of the central themes has consistently been that the performance system has been too complicated with too many measures. The common measures require only six measures, which does away with customer satisfaction, and is a much-simplified system. The State-level has been discussing as to whether there should be a waiver of the 17 existing measures and move ahead with the common measures. The Literacy/Numeracy gains measure is a big concern regarding services to the disabled.

It has been suggested that we not move forward with this particular measure until 2005-06 due to needing planning time with the local areas on how to do that. In the latest Training and Employment Guidance Letter, this concern has been acknowledged and suggests making adjustments to the testing procedures to accommodate the needs as well as providing services to the disabled. The concept is to request a waiver to discontinue the 17 measures and replace them with six measures that include Literacy/Numeracy Gains, Youth Retention, Credential Measure for Youth, combine Adults and Dislocated Workers Entered Employment measure, Retention measure, and a Wage Gain measure. The local areas were asked for suggestions to improve the literacy/numeracy measure and how it affects services to the disabled.

Performance Negotiation—Liz Clingman, WID

There are two levels to performance negotiations. First, with CWIB staff representation, LWDA and EDD began the dialog for federal negotiations for PY 2005-06 and 2006-07, in the realm of the 17 performance measures. The first conference call with DOL Region 6 was held on May 11. The proposal the State submitted is the proposal in the State Plan. In checking with State Board staff, we received no comments regarding the levels that were proposed. So we are moving forward in the negotiations process and are on a timeline with Region 6 to complete those negotiations at the State-level by May 31. The federal guidance that allows us to renegotiate at a later date, if necessary, still exists.

At the local-level the State has received about 15 local area proposals to renegotiate performance for the current year. A timeline has not been set for renegotiation for 2005-06 at this time. These requests are in the process of being analyzed.